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New Haven

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Barbarito or Harris: What's the Choice?

by Andy Esposito
Modern Times Staff

Politics is endangering the educational future of New Haven's youth. On this point both the supporters of George Harris and George Barbarito agree. They differ on who it is that's playing politics and over which of the principals is the best qualified for the superintendent's position.

George Barbarito (left) and George Harris (right), who are both candidates for permanent superintendent of the New Haven School System.

George Barbarito's appointment as interim superintendent expires on June 30, 1973. Therefore, we can expect the conflict over the appointment of a permanent superintendent to heat up as the June 30th deadline approaches.

Harris vs Barbarito

Barbarito has been in the New Haven School system for 26 years and Harris has been in the system for thirteen years. Both Harris and Barbarito have spent approximately an equal amount of time at the same administrative level, assistant superintendent, in the New Haven system. Harris has had more formal education, having obtained a Ph. D. from Michigan State University while on leave of absence from the school system.

These points were stressed by the Urban League in its statement supporting Harris, issued during the first week of November, 1972. Yet, this tells us nothing about what Mr. Harris would do to improve the educational atmosphere in our city.

Other statements of support from prominent figures in the black community are equally uninformative. For example, on Oct. 20th, Robert Jones of the Black Coalition pronounced George Harris the most capable person to handle the problems facing our school system.

The problems are correctly identified, in part, as: poor attendance, lack of involvement on the part of parents, and teacher problems Yet, no concrete programs are offered to solve these problems All we get are vague statements filled with inflated rhetoric

While admitting that no one person could solve all these problems, Harris' supporters cite his implementation of community school councils as evidence of his ability to handle the problems of the inner city with contemporary methods of community involvement. Such statements say nothing about the type of programs Harris would institute to improve the achievement level of students in New Haven.

Support for Harris has come predominantly, but not exclusively, from the black community.

George Harris has become a symbol for the black political leaders of New Haven. They say that for a long time they have been told that because blacks did not have credentials they could not be appointed to high administrative pos-

See POLITICAL BATTLE, page 2

Vietnam: Nixon The Guilty One

by Peter O'Connell

A recidivist is a criminal who keeps going back and committing the same crime he was punished for before. The U.S. government is a recidivist when it comes to committing war crimes against the Vietnamese people.

The Tet offensive of 1968 punished Lyndon Johnson by revealing the failure of his policy of escalating ground warfare in Vietnam. After Tet, Johnson's political career was flushed down the drain. The taint of association with Johnson also brought down Hubert Humphrey.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Richard Nixon was trickier than the politico from Texas or the mugwump from Minnesota. In the 1968 election, he promised a peace-hungry public that he had a "secret plan" to end the war and declared that "those who have had four years to make peace and have not done so should not be given another chance."

Fake "Secret Plan"

Nixon's "secret plan" for peace remained secret while his war policies of bombing Vietnam, beefing up the Saigon regime, and assaulting Cambodia and Laos were there for all to see. The Indochinese punished Nixon for these policies by the spring offensive of 1972 that cast an ever-lengthening shadow of defeat over the American and Saigon forces and posed a threat to the President's re-election prospects after his first four years.

Nixon and his mouthpiece Kissinger then cynically focused attention on the Paris peace talks just before the election and claimed that "peace was at hand." Having won the election on the promise of a "generation of peace," Nixon and Kissinger refused to sign the nine-point peace treaty and created several diversions to distract attention from the massive bombing of Vietnam that continued.

They claimed they were concerned with the fate of American POW s and Vietnamese who might be killed in a "bloodbath" if peace were made. Of course, every day the war continued, POWs remained in prison, more POWs and MIAs were created, and the blood of thousands of Vietnamese bathed the tortured soil of their land.

See REAL CRIMINAL, page 5

WHAT'S INSIDE

Park Plaza: Union Victory

Bus Drivers Speak

Teachers March

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Parishoners of the Churches on the Green form a human chain from Elm to Chapel streets at a Christmas Eve day vigil organised by the Downtown Cooperative Ministry to show solidarity for peace in Indochina. (MT photo by Scott Whittemore.)

Arts Center Brightens Picture For Students

A group of students from the Art Center are shown participating in a musical exercise. (MT photo by Tony DellaVentura)

by Laurie Nussdorfer
Modern Times Staff

The Educational Center for the Arts is a public high school program which gives credit to students for work in the fields of music, dance, theater, and art – including film, videotape, and still photography. In its first semester the Center has 52 students temporarily sharing the facilities of the Neighborhood Music School at 100 Audubon Street. Each day they come from their own high schools to the Center for two hours. There will be 100 students next semester and by September there will be 200, by which time it will have moved into a remodeled temple on Orange Street.

Students and teachers have been enthusiastic about the new program with some reservations about the suburban "middle class" nature of the student body and the confusion of having temporary facilities. People speak of great flexibility and student initiative which seems built in to the Center's philosophy.

DeWitt Zuse, the Center Director, says, "We don't have fixed courses. If there is a cluster of interests and we have the staff resources, the instruction evolves from this. We aim to provide a creative experience with disciplined activities, not a narrowly professional orientation. We want to create a total arts environment where students can explore the other arts and draw on other resources in addition to that of their maior concentration."

Phil Simon, a student in photography, said, "I do a lot of different things. I'm interested in music so I go to music as well as photography. I'm exposed to other people interested in the same things for the first time. It's got a way to go still. There were certain hassles in the beginning, but things are getting cleared up now. There's going to be a lot of stuff coming out of the Center by the end of the year which should be very exciting."

The Center's aim is to supplement special needs not met in regular schools

"We try not to duplicate experience," said Zuse, "which is why we do not have private lessons or performing groups "

The Center is open to students who are judged to have "significant talent" *according to the state law. This is an* ambiguous area for a public program and Zuse defined his concept of talent at some length.

"Our philosophy is to have a range of talent -- from potential to highly experienced. We look for evidence of talent, not evidence of training, and for potential to grow. That's why we have in our music program a folksinger as well as someone who has performed with the symphony orchestra. While we want talent at all levels, we draw a line at mere interest -- we want to see some actual evidence of work."

Any high school student from a participating town can initiate consideration for acceptance at the Center either through the recommendation of the school or by applying directly to the Center (which then goes through the school.) The Center selects a placement team of artists in each field to revjew and work with the student to decide whether he or she has that "significant talent."

The Educational Center for the Arts is administered by the interdistrict committee of Area Cooperative Educational Servies (ACES) -- a regional board of education with representatives from the local board of each town. Currently these include New Haven, East and West Haven, Amity, North Haven, and North Branford; eventually it could include a wider area. The state provides two-thirds of the tuition for each student and local boards provide the remainder. Because the state reimburses the towns rather than the boards of education directly, there has been a delay in participation in some areas, such as Hamden and Branford.

In principle, at least in the first year, the proportion of students from each town able to attend the Center is based on the ratio of the total number of high school students in that area to the total enrollment of the Center. New Haven's share eventually will be 60 out of 200.

Active Communities

Zuse called recruitment the most pressing problem facing the Center. According to Simon, there are only 11 students from the City of New Haven this semester. Zuse said, "We want to increase the number of inner city students; it's very important for us to build up a network of people involved in the arts in the community, in dancing or rock groups for example, who also know about us -- people who can send students our way."

Mindy Novick, a drama student, said "I wish more people at my high school, Lee -- knew about it. It definitely needs more exposure. The theater group might do something in the schools later on, which could help, but it mainly takes time."

Novick was very enthusiastic about the Center. "I've enjoyed working at theater every day rather than just preparing for a production. The intensified work is very different from performing. We're doing mime, story theater, improvisation and working on rhythm and movement. There is writing and directing as well as acting. The learning experience is very group-oriented. It's a community - we learn from each other and we've grown together. We can help each other which is something you don't often find.

The program is very flexible and they take ideas from us. We need more time - 10 hours a week is a very small segment of what you might do. Also it would be good to have the facilities available at night and on weekends for work. The program isn't for everyone of course."

Not Interested

One person it was not for is Joe Bader, an art student who had spent three years at the Creative Arts Workshop in pottery. He dropped out of the Center after six weeks saying, "It was too dis-

See ART CENTER page 8

HOW MUCH IS PORK?
69¢ A POUND
HOW ABOUT BEEF?
79¢ A POUND
DON'T WORRY MRS PULASKI, NIXON'S GONNA GET PRICES DOWN...
... HOW MUCH IS BALONEY??

Community Notes

PEOPLES LOBBY SCHEDULED

The New Haven Coalition for Peace and Justice (NHCPJ) will participate in a national "Peoples Lobby" on January 4, 1973 in Washington, D.C., when the new Congress convenes. The Coaltion will be joining with the American Friends Service Committee, the Clergy and Laity Concerned and other peace organizations in calling upon Congresspeople to shut off funds for the war. Buses will be leaving New Haven on the morning of January 4th. For further information about the peace efforts in New Haven and the trip to Washington, call 248-1115.

WINDOWS ON DAY CARE

"We cannot afford the continued neglect of children--neglect we can document throughout the United States," declared Mary Keyserling in **Windows on Day Care**, a survey commissioned by the National Council of Jewish Women.

Some of the report's highlights: (1) In 75 cities, more than one-third of all mothers with preschool age children work; (2) Two million of them are at poverty levels, another million are separated, widowed, or divorced; (3) Only ten percent of the six million children of working mothers receive licensed day care services; (4) More than one-third of the six million are supervised during the day by fathers who work night shifts; (5) At least 700 children in Chicago fend for themselves each day without any formal supervision, left to wander the streets and houses of tenement houses; (6) The Council recommended additional expenditures of two billion dollars each year in Federal subsidies, a lot, but only about eight percent of the money which this country has spent on the Apollo space project.

Political Battle Over New Superintendent

Continued from page 1

itions. Not appointing Harris, a credentialed black, represents, according to them, a total political takeover of the school system.

George Barbarito--Guida's "Man"

George Barbarito is not without his supporters. The New Haven Concerned Citizens, a self-appointed watchdog group, has come out supporting Barbarito because they contend a business oriented individual is needed to head the school system. His experience with school finances, according to them, qualifies him to be superintendent.

The strongest support for Barbarito is to be found in the administration of Mayor Guida. He is clearly Guida's "man". His overall conservative outlook, especially in financial matters, falls neatly into lockstep with the tight money policies of the Guida regime.

Educationally, Barbarito favors stressing the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic, because, unless an individual is literate, advanced education is impossible.

Those most deeply involved in the educational process, the teachers, view Barbarito as more a teacher's "man" than his predecessor, Gerald Barbaresi. Where Barbaresi tended to be theoretical, Barbarito is less academic and more practical in his approach to education.

Clearly, each of the opposing groups wants to place "their" man in the superintendent's office in the hopes of influencing him to react favorably toward their proposals. It's also apparent that those people who speak for the various community groups desire to become the power brokers in the current controversy.

One big failure in this system is at the top. For while each faction cries that the other is playing politics with education, the truth is they both are. Caught in the middle of this political struggle are the students, teachers, and people of New Haven.

Local 217 Signs First $100 Min. At Park Plaza

Union members at New Haven's Sheraton-Park Plaza Hotel have voted overwhelming acceptance of a new 29 month contract which contains New England's first $100-a-week minimum wage in any major hotel. The contract, approved 82-3 in a secret ballot membership vote December 19, also includes full company payment for family coverage under the Blue Cross 80% dental plan, effective December 1, 1973.

"We're very proud that by next year no non-tipped Park Plaza worker will gross less than $104.00 for a 5-day week," said John Wilhelm, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 217, Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, AFL-CIO. "That's still not a real living wage, but it's another important step toward remedying the terrible conditions in the hotel industry."

The contract contains a total of 30¢ per hour in wage boosts for non-tipped employees, with 15¢ retroactive to September 15. Tipped workers get a total of 10¢ per hour, banquet department waiters and waitresses 16¢, and extra banquet bartenders get an additional $2.00 for each shift. These raises come on top of 10¢ an hour the Union had won earlier this year in an unusual 7-month contract.

"With the addition of the dental plan," Wilhelm said, "the Sheraton-Park Plaza Union contract ranks with the finest insurance plan anywhere in Connecticut in any industry. Insurance has been a top priority for our Union because of the outrageous cost of getting sick."

Workers in the Hotel have Blue Cross Semi-Private coverage with maternity and drug riders, the CMS Century plan

See UNION FORCES, page 6

Teachers' Spirit Undampened

by Karl Lechow
Modern Times Staff

On a cold and rainy afternoon, teachers from all over New Haven marched to demonstrate their demands for a decent contract. Nearly 300 teachers marched Wednesday, Dec. 20, from Lee High School to City Hall, publicizing their demands that the Board of Education bargain in good faith with the New Haven Federation of Teachers, the bargaining agent for all New Haven public school teachers.

Along the line of march teachers chanted "We want a contract now." They carried signs calling for "A limit on class size", and "Better educational facilities."

The teachers have been negotiating with the New Haven Board of Education since last February and have been without a contract since school began last September 5. The Board has held fast to proposals which would mean larger classes, fewer teachers, and substandard teacher pay-proposals to the detriment of the entire school system.

The Board would not even seriously consider suggestions for a contract settlement by outside arbitrators whose intervention they initially requested.

The march ended in a rally on the steps of City Hall. Here, President John Driscoll of the Connecticut State Labor Council, AFL–CIO, praised the teachers for their "determination and solidarity." He also pledged support of the State AFL–CIO "in the teachers' fight for a reasonable and just contract."

Sirabella Calls for Support

Vincent Sirabella, President of the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, lambasted the Board of Education for their "utterly indefensible position," adding that "No anti-union employer ever took such a position as this." He called for a unified membership to back the N.H.F.T. leaders in this current fight.

Support for the teachers' struggle was voiced by others at the rally with a final address by Ron O'Brien, President of the N.H.F.T. He criticized the Board for their "intransigent stand against the teachers' demands," and asked "why the Board is so unwilling to come to grips with the problems of education in this city."

The teachers cheered O'Brien's willingness to fight when he said the "hirelings on the Board of Education think we're going to roll over and play dead– It Just Ain't So ".

The teachers' march and the 4-day informational picket the week before have put the Board on notice. Teachers are not willing to tolerate working much longer. John Driscoll said at the Dec.20 rally that until this point the patience of the teachers has been unbelievable. That patience is running out.

Undaunted by the weather close to three hundred New Haven teachers walked and rallied on December 20th for better education in our city's schools and for better working conditions. Once again the teachers have successfully brought out in the open their *just struggle for these goals and the obstinacy of the Board of Ed. which time and again shows bad faith in bargaining with the New* Haven Federation of Teachers.
(MT photo by Matt Borenstein)

UNITED MINE WORKERS VICTORY

Miller Over Boyle

a detailed story will be carried in the next issue of
MODERN TIMES
to come out January 18, 1972

Bus Drivers Speak Out

by Andy Esposito and Nina Adams

"Mass transit is a social service and should not be run on a profit basis," said Joe Looney, member of of the Connecticut Company Bus Driver's Union. Looney and ten other drivers were picketing on a cold sleety morning, December 12. **Modern Times** went to talk with them as they picketed on the corner of Church and Chapel.

Everyone had a lot to say. "If the bus service is not restored and run as a public service, it's the public that will be the real losers in the long run."

The drivers, angry to be strung along waiting for a contract, sais that it is just an ego clash between the Mayors and Meskill. They believe that more talk would bring a solution. One driver said, "the state can find the means of subsidizing the wealthy commuter trains from Fairfield County--why can't they find the money to subsidize the less wealthy residents of the cities."

Public Control

Looney suggested that they take some money out of the highway trust funds. "Besides, public control of buses is not a new idea. Some cities, like Cincinnati have taken over the bus lines with very good results."

"We all know who really gets hurt the most. It hits the socio-economic group which can least afford to be without bus service ––and look at the poor senior citizens. They can't shop, can't come downtown. It's a terrible situation."

The drivers themselves are also getting worried. "If the strike lasts much longer many drivers will have to go on welfare." Not only will that cost the city money, but New Haven is also losing tax money because of the licenses that the drivers carry -- both public utilities and auto--which aren't paid for now.

What About Businesses?

The drivers said that, of course, business has been hurt by the strike. The Chamber of Commerce said that business is off, but has done nothing to back the drivers or to help end the strike. "They don't support us and so we don't support them," Joe Looney said.

If the buses disappear, the drivers said that the parking lot owners will probably increase their prices because the consumers will have no other place to turn for transportation services. Downtown will be even more full of cars. "If buses begin to rur regularly again downtown won't be clogged with traffic and the pollution of the air will be less."

Labor Notes

UAW CHARGES BIG THREE WITH SEX BIAS

The United Auto Workers recently filed suit with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) against General Motors, Ford and Chrysler accusing the Big Three of sex discrimination. UAW charged that the employers provide sickness and accident benefits for disabilities related to pregnancy that are "not comparable to benefits available for other nonoccupational disabilities." UAW contracts with the car companies now provide for up to 52 weeks of sick and accident benefits for disabilities other than those caused by pregnancy. The union said that EEOC guidelines which took effect March 31 make it clear that contracts that fail to treat disabilities caused by pregnancy the same as other disabilities are discriminatory and illegal. A Ford spokesman said the company believes the EEOC guidelines are "neither binding on us nor in accord with the law."

STUDY CHARGES BANKS WITH BIAS

A study by the Council on Economic Priorities charges 18 commercial banks in six cities with pervasive secrecy and a statistical pattern on discrimination against women and minorities. *Shortchanged: Women and Minorities in Banking* blames the discrimination on the failure of federal agencies to enforce civil rights law or even to disclose data about the hiring practices of the banks. "In all six cities, women are employed in higher percentages than their proportion of the city labor force," stated Elizabeth Sapery, study co-director. "However, they are concentrated overwhelmingly in low-level, tedious, poorly paid jobs and the outlook for advancement is bleak. Although less than 70% of bank jobs are clerical, nearly 90% of all women employees find themselves in these positions."

MASS GRIEVANCE FILED AT U.C. – BERKELEY

More than 300 University of California employees have signed a mass grievance against UC over the cost-of-living pay increases granted on August 1. Most UC employees received only a 6% pay increase, but selected classes received increases of 8.5%, 11%, and 13.5%. According to its newspaper *The Employ-Press*, AFSCME Local 1695 charges that these higher increases went mostly to people who were already in higher-paid male-typed jobs. This mass grievance is part of the larger campaign for equal pay for equivalent work, on behalf of UC employees in low-paid female-typed jobs. A job is sex-typed if 70% or more of the workers in that class are one sex or the other. When the amount of pay increases was announced on August 1, the union discovered that the highest percentage of pay increases went to the jobs that were already high paid. Of the 49 classes given the 11% pay increase, at least 24 started at more than $900 before the increase, which widened the gap between male workers and female workers. Spokeswoman Leslye Russell of AFSCME related the mass grievance campaign to the larger issue of sex discrimination at UC and stated that if no satisfaction is achieved through the University's grievance machinery, AFSCME will fight in the courts. The University has not yet responded to the Union's demand.

Editorial

Schools Need Money, Not Talk!

Education, like most other public services in Connecticut, is falling apart and neither state nor local governments seem to care. Along with transportation, health care, and welfare, it is suffering from a conscious down-grading by the Meskill administration. Instead of treating these services as fundamental rights which must take priority in this society, the state government has decided to ignore them. Meskill allows the buses to stop while people lose jobs and merchants lose business; he sponsors a flat-grant system of welfare which allows children to go hungry and cold; and in education he cuts funds for community colleges and the State Board of Education proposes that the answers to problems of primary and secondary education lie in a more strenuous (and unworkable) system of evaluation for teachers. The assumption behind all these actions is that public services are privileges which can be revoked when the financial going gets tough.

The New Haven Board of Education presents a more local and immediate example of this attitude. Mayor Guida's appointees have tipped the balance toward a Board who's main priority is not to educate the children of New Haven but to save money. Their 10 month refusal to negotiate a contract with teachers invites drastic action; yet reliable sources have it that the Board is complacently lining up substitute scabs in case of a strike; this shows total lack of concern for the effects of a work stoppage on the students of New Haven. While reading scores go down, the Board ignores the reality of scanty classroom supplies and insists that there should be unlimited class size. In addition they refuse to negotiate with the para-professionals' legally recognized union thereby threatening this supportive service.

We do not argue that more money necessarily is the key to all improvements in education and other public services. Nevertheless, maybe the people of New Haven, should give a new twist to an old slogan, "No taxation without education!" How about a Boston tea party here in New Haven?

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Industrial workers face countless health hazards on the job each day including high noise levels, toxic chemicals in the air, and handling dangerous materials. This column will describe a different hazard each issue in a comprehensive way.

PROBLEM 1: ACETONE

Acetone is extensively used as a solvent in the metal, rubber, textile and printing trades. It also has many other applications, for example, in cleaning electronic parts and in paint removers.

Acetone is a colorless liquid with a rather pleasant odor. It readily ignites at temperatures above 4°F and at concentrations of 2% to 13% in air forms a dangerous, explosive mixture.

Harmful Effects

There are several harmful effects. The first is acute poisoning. Inhalation of high concentrations of acetone vapors produces dryness of the mouth and throat, slight dizziness, nausea, uncoordinated movements, loss of coordinated speech and later drowsiness, and, in extreme cases, coma.

Another harmful effect is chronic poisoning. Inhalation of small quantities of acetone vapors over long periods causes irritation of the respiratory tract, coughing, and headache.

Acetone can also cause dermatitis. Continues contact of acetone with the skin dissolves the fat of the skin and causes dryness and irritation.

If considerable amounts of acetone are used, workrooms should be thoroughly ventilated and, if possible, the vapors should be removed at the source of origin The max imum allowable concentration for continued ex posure is 500 parts of acetone per million parts of air Workers exposed to high concentrations should wear non-ventilated goggles to protect the eyes

Severe poisoning requires immediate removal from exposure and a medical program directed at counteracting coma and acid blood. Skin irritations must be treated with fat-restoring ointments.

The Crisis In College Costs

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

Every day, more jobs are added to the list which says, "Only those with a college education need apply." Yet every day, more and more Americans are denied the right to a college education because of the skyrocketing cost of going to school.

It is a national disgrace. Our economy is much less productive than it could be and should be if only more of our people could go beyond high school. Millions of lives coud be fuller and richer if it were not for facts like these:

In 1961, the average tuition for one year of private college was $906. Today that average is $1,900. The last dozen years or so have also seen the costs of room and board for private college students rise sharply. The same is true for the other necessary expenses of college: laundry, medical bills, transportation and clothing. Put it all together and the average price tag for one year of private college totals about $3,500 or $14,000 for four years. But remember that these are only the averages. Some private colleges, like Yale, can run to over $20,000 for four years.

Looking for an Alternative

With numbers like these, it is hardly surprising that more and more working class families are despairing or looking to public colleges as the hope for their children. The state schools do at least cost less. Yet their costs are rising too. In 1961, tuition in the public colleges averaged about $218 a year. Today it is about $400. And the total for all college costs for one year has risen to an average of $1,900 a year or $7,600 for four years.

For millions of American families, especially those with more than one child of college age, these numbers spell ex treme hardship or just plain denial of higher education

And the fact is that private scholarships are few and scarce. Nor can we demand that college students just borrow money like mad. A young married couple just starting out after both borrowed to go to college will begin their family life under a mountain of tens of thousands of dollars in costly indebtedness.

A solution to this problem which *concerns everyone has to begin with* money. For a start, how about making all college education free, just like elementary and high school education have been made free by law in this country? Will the federal government pass this kind of law? Will it spend the needed money on building schools, hiring teachers, aiding students?

Nixon No Spendthrift

Not with Nixon, it won't. For example, in the years 1970, 1971 and 1972 the Congress voted to spend over $10 billion on higher education. But Nixon has the right **not** to spend what the Congress says he may spend. And he didn't. Nixon spent less than 30 cents of every dollar voted by Congress.

So programs were cut back, costs rose and young people were forced to decide against going to college. They just could not afford it.

Nixon's behavior nationally is matched by Meskill's in Connecticut. Years ago the American working class had to fight politicians like these to establish free public education up to high school. To solve the financial crisis of higher education, that old fight will now have to be carried to a higher level.

(Adapted from the AFL-CIO American Federationist Magazine, November 1972)

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Lynne Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Jim Jordan, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florrie Ricciuti, Bob Sherry, Henry Tamarin, Ross Thompson, Sergio Verillo, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff Tony Della-Ventura, Rusty Foster

EAST SIDE ROUND UP

Dem. Insurgents Making Inroads In Fair Haven

by Frank R. Annunziato
Modern Times Staff

Just as we indicated several issues ago, Jack Penders has been appointed alderman for the 11th Ward. Jack replaces Ray O'Neil, after a vacancy of a few months.

Jack is a relative newcomer to Democratice politics in Fair Haven, even though he and his family have been active in community affairs for many years. Only 29 years old, he is employed by the Connecticut State Employees Association.

The appointment came after many months of negotiations between Jack Penders, the Mayor and the Democratic Town Chairman Arthur T. Barbieri. Another important factor in the negotiations was an insurgent group in Ward 11, headed up by Dick Nuzzo and Al Rauccio. Nuzzo was narrowly defeated last year in a bid to unseat ward chairman Tom King.

Strength of Newcomers

Nuzzo and Rauccio made it clear to whomever would listen, that they were supporting Penders and vowed a primary fight if he didn't get the appointment. This Pender's-Nuzzo-Rauccio alliance was able to persuade the Mayor both of their strength in the ward and their ability to represent the people there.

It seems there is far more happening in the Eleventh Ward than a new alderman. A couple days ago, Nuzzo was sworn in as assistant registrar for the ward. He replaces Jim O'Connell who, even though he was assistant registrar, did not live in the ward.

O'Connell carried that off because of his political friendship with former alderman O'Neil. However, too many people were squawking about this strange situation and the Dems moved to oust him.

The insurgents pulled off another coup with Nuzzo getting the nod. The old party people still hold on to the two top party positions, the chairman and the chairwoman, in the persons of Tom King and Mary Gemski.

Whether or not there will be challenges to them in the future remains, as far as I can tell, an unanswerable question.

A more fascinating question is whether all these newtimers and oldtimers will be able to work together without killing each other off. What was that saying about strange bedfellows?

A Big Dinner

On the social and cultural front, the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation has announced plans for a gala dinner-dance to be held January 26 at the Annex YMCA club on Woodward Ave. The dinner is in honor of FHNC Board member, Valentia Macri.

Val has been active in community and social work for more than fifty years. She recently is working for the Housing Authority in dealing with the problems of senior citizens.

Those that know Val will vouch that she's got more hours in her work than can be imagined Most of the dinner plans are being worked out by Vivian Deschamps and Trudi Michaud, FHNC Board members

The dinner will be catered by **Bill Iannotti** (that's a union caterer, folks) and will consist of antipasto, pasta, roast beef and trimmings, cake with ice cream and coffee. There will also be a well-known band to help the party get moving.

All this for only seven dollars ($7) -- you can't go wrong! Anyone interested in tickets should call Vivian Deschamps at 776-1721 or the FHNC office at 562-3125.

It's Time To Punish The Real Criminal

" Stop the Bombing, Stop **the War!", chanted 125 people who marched for an hour in front of the Post Office on Church St. on Saturday, Dec. 23. Sponsored by the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice the march was quickly organized in response to the break down of the Peace Talks and the renewed bombing of Hanoi. Marchers called on Nixon to keep his pre-election promise of Peace at last.**

(MT photo by Vittorio Comisso)

continued from page 1

Nixon and Kissinger also claimed that President Thieu of Saigon was impeding the signing of the treaty. But, of course, Thieu is nothing but a servant of Washington. Like a flunky he takes orders from the man who pays him; he doesn't give them. But Thieu's maneuverings provided a smokescreen for Nixon to move into position for more assaults.

Now those assaults have reached new levels of horror with even more escalation of the bombing and the re-mining of Haiphong harbor. Nixon is clearly determined to protract the war as long as politically possible. The loot of the East, the big profits for the military-industrial complex and the multi-national corporations that back Nixon, are too tempting for him to pass up.

And as long as the criminal war against Indochina continues, the lives of American servicemen will continue to be lost and the living standards of the American working people will continue to decline.

Renew Anitwar Force

Wearisome as it is, Nixon, the "law and order" hypocrite, must be punished again. The Vietnamese can handle the battlefield, but the American people must make it politically impossible for Nixon to carry out his "four more years" of war. The only way to do that is to renew the mass-based, militant antiwar movement with organized labor playing a major role in it. There must be petitions, meetings, and demonstrations of all kinds.

A start at renewing protest has been made in New Haven with the "Sign the Treaty" petition campaign and the picket of City Hall, December 23, both sponsored by the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice.

Fight crime, stop Nixon!

Hassle At Unemployment Center

by Andy Esposito

This story focuses on the experiences of a woman who has recently gone through the process of applying for unemployment compensation. Laid off as a result of massive staff cut-backs by her former employer, she began the process by filing her claim.

The first aspect of the process which struck her was the lack of information about the process itself. "You stand in the first line, always the longest and slowest moving, and don't find out until you reach the front that you have to register at the Employment Division. There should be a sign or some type of flyer to instruct people as to where they should go." This simple step of making a sign or flyer will go a long way toward humanizing the process.

When she registered at the Employment Division things began to happen. She was kept waiting because the employment counselor she saw was not familiar with her and her file had been misplaced. This appears to be a common occurence and when lost files are coupled with seeing a different counselor every visit feelings of frustration and anger naturally result.

Depersonalization

The slow process of depersonalization of an applicant has begun. The staff of the Connecticut State Employment Service (CSES) tend to treat the people they are supposed to serve as objects, so much paper which has to be processed during a day's work.

See ANOTHER TURN page 6

Government KOs Housing Programs

by Modern Times Capitol Reporter

No one has really figured out how to solve the housing crisis in Connecticut. What we see happening in New Haven is typical of what is happening in other major cities. More and more houses are being abandoned in the inner city, existing housing units continue to deteriorate at a rapid pace, and new construction efforts fail to keep pace with the needs of urban areas.

There are two ways to get more units of decent housing. One is to build new housing which can be rented at a level within the reach of poor people and the other is to rehabilitate existing dilapidated housing units to an acceptable level.

Neither of these choices can be accomplished without the expenditure of large amounts of either public or private monies. Since it is clear that the private sector will not act without some form of governmental persuasion, the real financial committment must ultimately come from the government.

When you look around it is obvious that the government has not done its job The following problems, among others, hinder the provision of adequate amounts of decent housing:

1. New guidelines by the federal government make it almost impossible to build federally subsidized housing in the cities. The justification for these new regulations is that the government is trying to prevent the concentration of minorities in certain areas. This is a worthwhile goal if it were possible to build housing for poor people in the suburbs. HUD has made no plans to accomplish this, so the result is that no housing is being built anywhere.

2. State housing assistance programs are being cut back or applied in a restrictive manner. Housing for the poor depends on state monies being available for tax abatement. Without such monies some proposed projects cannot be built and others must charge rents that are too high to serve the very people the housing programs were intended to reach.

The state has now placed a limit of $350 per year per unit on tax abatement monies. This compares with the actual taxes per unit in Hartford of $700 per unit. The difference has to be made up by increasing rents. Federal officials have said that the reason no new subsidized housing is being built in Connecticut is that the State is failing to provide tax abatement monies.

In some instances, it is impossible to pay off the mortgage and all other expenses and still keep the monthly housing cost for a family below $180 for a three bedroom apartment. A family who makes only $125 per week cannot afford to pay such a high rent.

3. The bureaucratic hassle involved in the processing of paperwork at both the State and federal levels is causing delays (the average processing time is a year and a half) and often is so discouraging to potential sponsors that they drop out before the process is completed. The federal and state bureaucracies seem more interested in obstructing than helping.

Funds????

4. The level of funding for federal programs does not allow for what all experts agree is the minimum number of units per year to meet the needs of the people. A housing study by DCA in 1968 found that Connecticut must produce 7000 new housing units per year to meet the housing needs of its citizens. The average since that study has been less than 2000 per year. There is talk of more cuts and less money. Housing is not regarded as a major issue any more having been replaced by such issues as the environment.

5. No one has been able to figure out a way to fix up dilapidated housing units that doesn't involve the expenditure of money and the committment of resources. This is not likely to change soon.

6. Housing costs are going steadily up. For example, the cost per unit for co-operative housing in New Haven in 1965 was $13,000 and it is now between $22,000 and $24,000. Every single item involved in the production of housing has increased by at least 10% in the past five years including labor, materials and taxes.

This is understandable given the state of the economy. However, the federal and state policies are still operating as though nothing has changed for five years. The cost restrictions in the current federal and state programs make a Church Street South housing project unavoidable.

In the next issue we will look at the most recent State response to a housing crisis.

Welfare Rights Seminar

(MT photo by Jim Gelvin)

On Dec. 11, The Urban League of Greater New Haven and the Welfare Moms of New Haven presented Dr.George A.Wiley,Executive Director of the National Welfare Rights Organization. His talk centered around Welfare and Politics in the 70's. Other speakers included Mrs. Matilda Gibbs,pres. of the Moms and Sen.Anthony Ciarlone.

Union Forces Major Hotel To Give $100 Min.

Continued from page 3

with pre- and post-natal coverage, all paid for in full for the family by the Hotel, plus $2000 life insurance and $65 flat rate per week this year and $75 next year in long-term disability insurance. With the dental plan next year, the Park Plaza will pay about $100 a month for insurance alone for a worker with a family.

"The significant thing about this insurance package," Wilhelm said, "is that we've been able to achieve it at the Park Plaza and in many of our other contracts while still leading New England in wages too, especially for the lower-paid non-tipped workers " Local 217 had reported earlier this winter that it achieved the dental plan for its members for the first time at another Union House, the Waverly Inn in Cheshire

The new Park Plaza contract also provides that Union members who choose to enroll in the Community Health Care Plan (CHCP) on Long Wharf, the labor-initiated comprehensive health plan, will have the full cost for family coverage paid by the Hotel.

Other significant changes at the Sheraton-Park Plaza include 3 weeks vacation after 5 years (previously it was 2½), time-and-a-half vacation pay for tipped workers, a ceiling at 50¢ on the "tip-deduction" from wages allowed by state law, and numerous changes in the contract language.

Most important of the language changes are an expansion of the grievance procedure to allow grievances and arbitration on speed-ups or undermanning problems, and an expansion of the Union's bargaining unit to include desk clerks, telephone operators, and cashiers, making the Park Plaza a 100% Union House.

The Union negotiating committee included Margaret Anderson (coffee house) Robert Cook (cooks), Ellen Gambardella (Top of the Park days), Deane Germe (Top of the Park nights), Clementine Grayson (front office), Betty Jaye (banquet), Genevieve Kurzawa (housekeeping), Francis Rowe (bar), Pat Saccu (front service), Pat Scalo (maintenance), Eva Smith (pantry), Ivan Torres (room service), Local 217 Business Agent Frank Annunziato, and Wilhelm.

Unemployment Center

Another Turn of the Screw

Continued from page 5

This leads to another practice which she found especially offensive - the misrepresentation of an applicant's skills. In her case the counselor wanted to indicate that she possessed typing skills when in fact she did not. The employment counselor inferred she would have better prospects of finding a job if she said she did. Could it also be that he would appear favorably in the eyes of his supervisor as long as he placed her in a job? Whether or not she remains on the job appears immaterial! It seems that this is exactly the attitude of a majority of the staff.

Another technique used by the staff of CSES is to frighten an applicant into taking a low paying, dead end job. In this case she was told that the only thing available was a job placing tags on dresses which payed $1.80 per hour. When she objected to this menial job she was told: "In a couple of months you will be dying for this type of job". Again, any method seems acceptable to the CSES staff as long as it gets a person off their books.

She summed up the prevailing attitude at the Employment Division saying; "They just don't think in terms of people."

Humiliation

Things continue when an applicant goes to the Unemployment Compensation Division to get their check. Each time she goes to get her check she must show a list of three businesses where she has filled out an application. Connecticut is the only state which uses this form of pressure. It must, therefore, be concluded that this technique was conceived by one of Meskill's faceless bureaucrats. "The clerks", she states, "act as if the money they give you is coming out of their own pockets. They give you the impression that you don't deserve it."

It is no wonder that after exposure to such treatment and red tape a person, who finds it necessary to apply for unemployment compensation, feels anger and humiliation.

PERISCOPE
On The Environment

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

THE BUS CRISIS AND THE STATE ST. GARGAE: A DEAL?

The Coalition for Better Transit Systems has been wondering why New Haven merchants have not let on that they are being seriously hurt by the lack of bus service. The reason may be the proposed one-half mile State Street Garage and commerical center. Even now, during the holiday season, the New Haven parking garages are not being filled. With better mass transit, it is likely that the merchants would have an even harder time filling the garages and have less political leverage to exert for building yet another one. Maybe this is an important reason for the inaction of the Chamber of Commerce on the bus issue. It looks like the merchants may still be dreaming about re-vitalizing the downtown shopping center by bringing more suburban cars into the city.

PAPER TIGERS AND THE UNITED STATES E.P.A.

In the November issue of **Environment News** published by the New England Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, there is a feature listing four vital reasons for using recycled paper. 1) It helps reduce waste disposal problems 2) puts less strain on natural resources 3) saves energy and 4)demonstrates your environmental concern to your community.

In the same issue they explain in response to inquiries that they would prefer to use re-cycled paper for their publication but cannot because the Government Printing Office has not approved the use of recycled paper for government use. Thus, the agency will have a difficult time, especially on point "4" – demonstrating the environmental concern of the federal government to the community.

Inspectors Deaf To Factory Noise

by Dean Johnson
Occupational Health Project

Sheetmetal work is one of the most dangerous trades, in Connecticut and in the nation. The major problem in the sheetmetal trades is noise pollution from cutting and pounding metals. This is especially from the use of electric hammers. The noise levels are so high that most workers have some hearing loss and some of the older workers have gone deaf.

This September, I conducted an interview with Kenneth P. Ford and James C. Wilkes of Local 40 of the Sheetmetal Workers Union. I wanted to determine how effective state and federal agencies have been in dealing with the occupational health and safety problems in the sheet metal trades.

According to these unionists, the sheetmetalers had received little benefit from the state occupational health or occupational safety divisions. The Federal Occupational Health and Safety Commission (OSHA) has designated sheetmetaling as one of their "target industries" and has conducted inspections in some of the larger sheetmetal shops around the state. But since their jurisdiction extends only to factories employing more than 15 people, most of the sheetmetal shops have never been inspected.

Noise Problem Ignored

Ford and Wilkes were not familiar with the OSHA safety standards on noise and asked me to look into the OSHA inspection records of six plants which they had classified as especially noisy. Four of the plants had never been inspected and at the two plants which had undergone inspection, no noise level readings were taken.

These results seem to indicate that the noise problem was not getting adequate attention and was even getting swept under the rug to protect management.

The stories told to me by Ford and Wilkes would have been funny, had they not been so shocking. For instance, Ford told me of two retired sheetmetalers who now work for the union. One is deaf in his left ear, the other in his right. They now work at adjoining desks. When they began working together, the one who was deaf in his left ear worked at the right hand desk, the other at the left hand desk. Neither could hear the other. They have since switched desks.

Ford also told me a story of the only shop in Connecticut to install anti-noise equipment. In one small shop the noise was so bad that the company executive found it impossible to have a conference in the office adjoining the workroom. The next day, the executive conference room got soundproofing.

Other Hazards

In addition to the pervasive problem of noise, sheetmetal workers frequently face other health and safety hazards. Among those named by Ford and Wilkes were:

Cuts from unprotected saws

Cuts from metal scraps which are left lying around

Burns from chemicals–Ford cited one case where tools used by the workers were stored near unprotected hydrochloric acid (used in the soldering of metals). Workers were burned when ropes which they were using were accidentally dipped in the acid.

Lack of ventilation in shops–especially hazardous considering the amount of welding in the shops. And expecially ironic considering that the men who could build a proper system of ventilation for the shops are. . .sheetmetalers.

reviews

Long Wharf's Rapunzel: A Hairy Letdown

by James Walsh
Rapunzel'Let Down Your Hair'
Music and lyrics by Terrence Sherman
Directed by George Spaulding
At the Long Wharf Children's Theater

As this reviewer has stated previously in this column, the Long Wharf Children's Theater is a gift to the children of the New Haven area and their parents. This is the third season my children and I have been attending and we have never been disappointed.

The company is a professional one without a trace of amateurism (except in the good sense). The plays selected are usually well written and competently directed with imaginatively designed costumes and sets.

The current offering is **Rapunzel, Let Down Your Hair** and can be seen on December 30 and January 6 with two performances on each day.

Rapunzel is not the best offering we have seen at the Long Wharf although the audience generally liked it very much. There are two problems with the production.

Energetic Acting

The first is that it starts slowly and much of the humor is "adult" in nature. There are funny lines but they center around vaudeville and go right over the heads of most of the young audience. This flaw is compensated for by the increasing tempo and action after the first 15 minutes or so and by the colorful costumes and energetic acting.

The second problem is that it only lasts some 50 minutes. Perhaps Spaulding and Sherman, director and writer respectively, assumed that the attention span of the youngsters would not last much longer than that. I would suggest that that is not the case. In addition, one feels a little cheated after laying out two dollars a head for so little entertainment time.

As usual, my children and their father can hardly wait for the next play in the series which will open on January 27. I do not wish to leave the impression that the Long Wharf Childrens Theater is anything less than perhaps the best entertainment offering for children in the New Haven area.

The Wicked Witch Of The East Side

"The Wizard of Oz"
by Betty Tocchi

An abundance of talent has been discovered right in "our own backyard" – the backyard of the Fair Haven Community. On December 18 the children of Fair Haven put on a delightful adaptation of the musical, "The Wizard of Oz."

It was a project of the Children's Dramatic Workshop, sponsored by the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation(FHNC. Director, Carline Williams and assistant director, Stephen Darley, gave their full support to the production. The cast was under my direction and the supervision of the FHNC Youth Program Assistant, Julie Alberino.

Local Cast

The star of the play is Gloria Varagallo. Her faithful companion Toto was portrayed by Lisa Pastore. The Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion were played by Nichael Geraci, Debbie Rimmer and Grace LaFramboise. The Good Witch was Tina Rimmer, while the Bad Witch was Eleanor Altieri.

Let us not forget the great Oz himself, characterized by C. Ruggiero. The Wizard's aide, Verdo, was played by Russel Hixson; Aunt Em by Lisa Rodriguez; and Uncle Henry by Ken Sarcione.

All in all, it was a fun evening.

The Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation wishes to extend sincere thanks to the Fair Haven Middle School for their continuous cooperation and aid. Last but not least, our gratitude goes to Reverend Welch and the entire congregation of the Grand Avenue Church for their support.

The energetic cast of "The Wizard of Oz" poses for our photographer Sequin.

New 'Buffer Bunch' Now Available For Home Owners

Taken from the
Connecticut Environmental Bulletin
Nov. - Dec. 1972

For the first time, Connecticut homeowners with small lots will be able to purchase low cost wildlife plantings from the state forest nursery.

State Forester Edmund Vandermillen said the Forestry Unit will offer a packet of 30 shrub seedlings and 20 tree seedlings called the "Wildlife Buffer Bunch" to lot owners who wish to encourage wildlife. The cost for the 50 seedlings is $6.

Mr. Vandermilled said the one restriction in the program is that homeowners can not use the seedlings for ornamental purposes.

The buffer bunch will include 10 autumn olive, 10 dogwood and 10 honeysuckle shrub seedlings; and 10 white pine and 10 spruce tree seedlings.

Planting Program

The state forester said "the planting program in the past was only offered for re-forestation or restocking of large lots.

"Many people with less than one acre wanted to re-plant their land for wildlife food and cover, but we could not help because of the cost. Now with the interest in wildlife and demand for plantings what it is we can offer the "Wildlife Buffer Bunch" to anyone as long as the seedlings are not used for ornamental purposes or resold," Vandermillen said.

Region Four Director John Olsen said the seedlings would be delivered in April. At delivery, Mr. Olsen said, the seedlings would be six inches tall or taller. They will take 8 to 10 years to develop into a true buffer strip, Mr. Olsen said, but wildlife will realize some benefits before that time.

He said homeowners who want to purchase the "Wildlife Buffer Bunch" should obtain applications from the Deaprtment of Environmental Protection's regional offices or the main office at 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford 06115.

On The Job

Pressman Impressed With Work

This is from an interview with Larry Slaney, a long time pressman who works in Connecticut. In the next issue of **Modern Times** *we will carry an article on a union press and how it is run.*

I was about 12 years old when I began working as a pressman. My father was a printer. I used to go to work with him on Saturday mornings. We used to set type by hand, hot type. That's how I learned. I'd go in and set business cards and posters, and then I'd run them on a small hand-type press. Later on I was either setting type or running the press. I learned to do both.

When I got out of the service, I went to work for a firm that my father was working for up in Mass. I was just running a hand fed letter press, a job press they called it. Business got real slow. The guy that owned the firm had another business in another part of town that was going into offset. So he asked me if I wanted to go to work up there.

I figured I needed a job anyhow, and I might as well learn something new. So I went to work for him in his offset department. Things are just turning over to offset now. It took a while to catch on, like anything else. But I think its easier, cleaner, safer and faster than hot type.

Union and Non-union Shops

I've worked in quite a few shops. I worked in nine shops one year, nine different shops, I worked in a union shop too.

The difference between this shop and a union shop is, I get about 25¢ less an hour than a union man, I don't have to contribute to the emergency strike fund, I don't have to pay union dues. I don't have to go on strike. If I have a problem, if I want more money, I can come right up here in the office and talk to the boss and get it straightened out myself.

I think we're better off now than we would be if we had a union here. I have three weeks paid vacation, I have Blue Cross and CMS, I have sickdays, nine paid holidays, we get a raise twice a year. The only thing is, if I came in one day and he said I was fired, I'd be fired. But that's to be expected. But I'm good, and I know he's not going to fire me. I consider myself a professional. I know my business, I know my trade. And I know I could make out any place I go.

Job Safety

Press work is good work. It's no more dangerous than working in a sheet metal shop, or as a mechanic, or anything else. Sure you could get hurt if you don't use common sense out there at the press. If the guys don't tie their hair back it could get caught in the press. But the safety features are on it. They're there.

The only difference between the presses we have here and say the sheet fed press is that most sheet fed presses have a safety bar between you and the blanket so that if you should get your hand caught you'll hit the bar and the machine will stop.

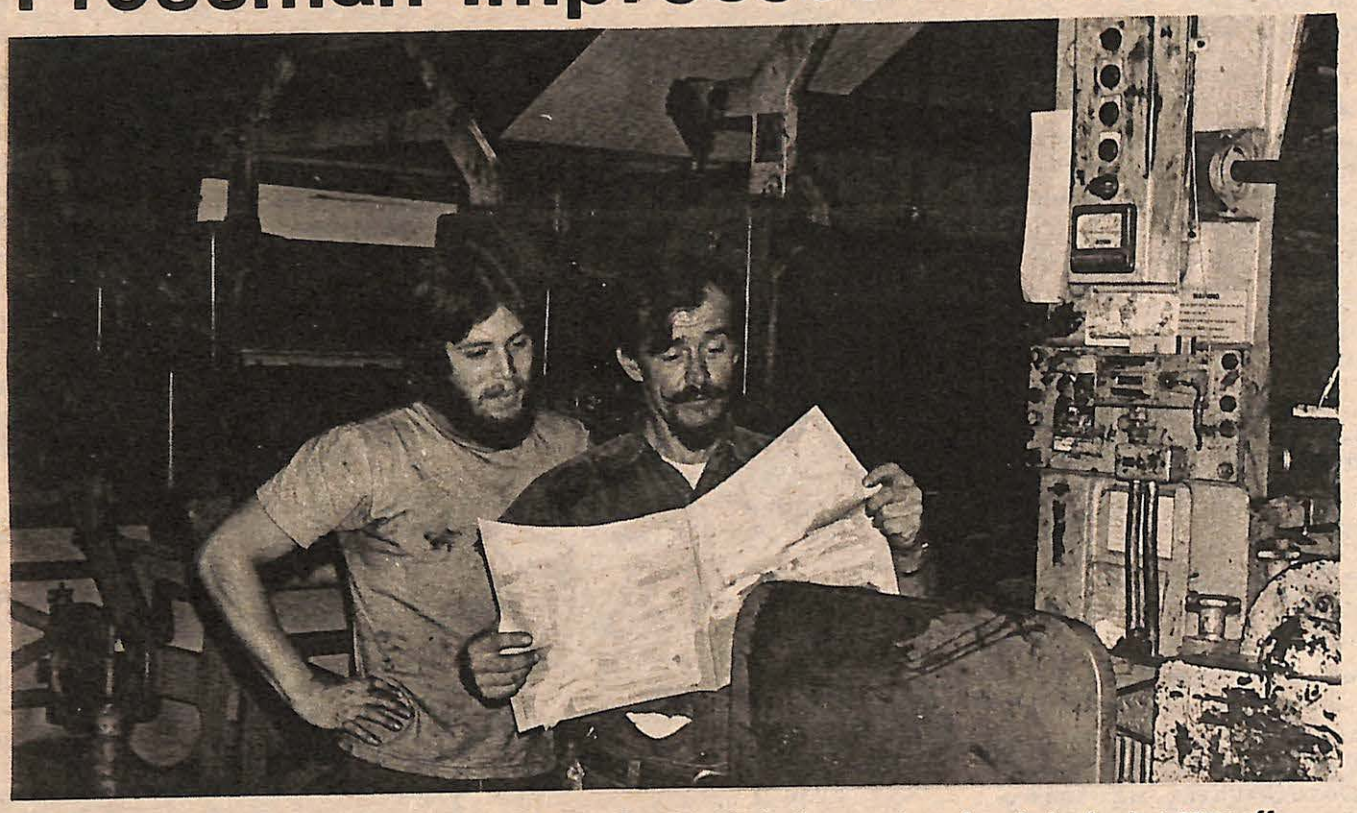
If you get your hand caught in this press, it's not going to stop unless you can reach over and hit the stop button. But it has stop buttons—all over the place. But then you shouldn't have your hand in there anyway.

I had three fingers on my left hand caught between the blanket and the press twice and my right hand got caught in the rollers twice. The first time—I was in a position where I couldn't reach the stop button, but I managed to pull my hand out. It took all the meat off right down to the bone. But you could be a carpenter and hit your hand with a hammer or cut your finger off. You know.

The only thing is, I don't hear well out of one ear, and that's, I figure, from 20 years of running presses.

It's good work. And you can always find a place to work if you're a printer... or you could print your own money. It's funny, I go someplace with my friends and we'll be talking and somebody will come up and slap me on the back and say, "Hey, have you got any fresh twenties today?" I went into the bank one day and cashed by check, and I got several bills. And I was in a strange bar that night and a guy came in that knows me and he slapped me on the shoulder and said that. Well, it happened that I had a brand new 20 dollar bill sitting on the bar and do you know it took me a half an hour to convince that bartender that that was a good bill?!?!

It's a good trade. I'm satisfied.



(MT photo by Patti Miller)

Pressman Larry Slaney, right, and Assistant Pressman Dean Verilli look over a piece of work that has just come off the press. They must constantly check the printed matter and make adjustments as the press is running.

Art Center Opens Programs

Continued from page 2

organized and too basic. We had three different classrooms and we stayed too long on things like perspective, which I learned in sixth grade. Also I got in to do pottery and they stuck me in drawing and sculpture." Photography instructor, James Eisenman, defended the fundamental approach. "Students get out ahead of themselves in high school; we want to return them to a basic point of view and then go out from there."

Eisenman continued, "One very important thing is trying to get students to react to their own as well as each other's work. Students can see when someone is up to a gimmick; it's better if the comments come from them. This kind of interaction is equally if not more significant than input from the teacher. I try to keep them up-to-date with what's happening in the world of photography. We're trying to communicate a soul which is in all the arts, even the "Practical arts" like photography. It's understanding the transposition of thought to a visual language, whether on film or in dance or in theater."

Eisenman had this to say about the students at the Center "They're very bright, very responsive, overzealous if anything Students are taking a great deal of initiative; there's a unique lack of inhibition I haven't seen this kind of interest and activity in the arts before "

The Center teaching staff of 13 is all part-time. All practicing or performing artists, it will undoubtedly grow in the future but will continue to be part-time. "We need this kind of arrangement to get a range of specialized people," said Zuse. "We must have a widely differentiated staff - with people at the highest level in their field who don't necessarily have time to come every week as well as people to provide everyday support. Hopefully we will have more people who can spend 10 or 20 hours a week and a day-long program."

In conclusion, while it is too early to say much about the Center, itself except that it seems to be providing an unusual and apparently helpful program to artistically-inclined young people, it is interesting to notice how the state has decided to spend its money for art in the schools. A select group of students are taken out of their regular programs and given a special opportunity. Whether or not this group is privileged in the economic sense - there is certainly a consciousness of this difficulty at the Center - it is a group privileged to possess artistic talent. While other high school students might benefit from programs in theater, dance, and media if these were brought into every school -- this would undoubtedly carry too high a price tage for state legislators. So they compromise, and some win and a lot lose out.

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